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Message Text

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15
ACTION SWF-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 RSC-01

IO-14 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 SAM-01

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 NSC-10 SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03

H-03 OIC-04 DRC-01 INRE-00 /243 W
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O R 100510Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9605
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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OECD FOR MARTIN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR IN
SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 7206

1. EMBOFF HAS DISCUSSED ABOVE SUBJECT WITH GOI OFFICIALS. THEY ARE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN CONFERENCE AND PLAN TO PARTICIPATE TO MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE. THE OFFICIAL SELECTED TO COORDINTE PARTICIPATION OF THE GOI AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY IN THE WFC IS MR. ABU HAKIM, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FOREIGN AID DIVISION, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. THE GOI AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR IN ROME, MR. K. PRASAD, HAS BEEN SELECTED TO REPRESENT INDIA AT THE PREPCOM MEETINGS.

2. EMBASSY OFFICERS AND GOI OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED
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WFC AGENDA ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH PROPOSALS LISTED IN PARA 10

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OF REFTEL. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, IF IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO CONDUCT WFC WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE OVERLAPPING WITH INTERRELATED AREAS SUCH AS POPULATION GROWTH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND THE ENERGY PROBLEM WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON FERTILIZER. SOME ITEMS WHICH WE THINK SHOULD BE GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY IN DEVELOPING THE AGENDA ARE:

A. STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF OBTAINING MORE ACCURATE DATA ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, IMPORT NEEDS OR EXPORT AVAILABILITIES INCLUDING SHORT TERM (ONE OR TWO YEARS) PROJECTIONS OF THE FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION.

B. DEVELOP, IF POSSIBLE, A WORKABLE PLAN FOR ESTABLISHING FOOD RESERVES. EMBASSY OFFICERS BELIEVE WUCH A PLAN SHOULD BE BUILT AROUND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL RESERVES (IN PREFERENCE TO REGIONAL OR WORLD RESERVES) WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS BY FAO. ON THIS POINT THE GOI DOES NOT YET HAVE A FIRM POSITION AS TO WHETHER IT FAVORS NATIONAL RESERVES OR REGIONAL RESERVES. SOME OFFICIALS IN THE GOI, INCLUDING THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, SEEM TO FAVOR REGIONAL RESERVES ALTHOUGH PROPOSED ADMINSISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR PROCURING AND CONTROLLING SUCH RESERVES HAVE NOT YET BEEN DEVELOPED.

C. ONE ADDITIONAL ITEM WHICH EMBASSY OFFICERS AND GOI OFFICIALS BELIEVE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR THE AGENDA IS A PANEL OF REPRESENTQTIVES FROM THREE OR FOUR LDC'S WHICH HAVE MADE UNUSUALLY FAST PROGRESS IN INCREASING AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES. THE PANEL MEMBERS WOULD DISCUSS THEIR PRODUCTION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS WHICH WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHARP INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT. PARTICIPANTS ON THIS PANEL WOULD BE SELECTED BY FAO.

D. ANTOHER POINT WHICH WE THINK SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED AT THE WFC IS A MORE EFFECTIVE EXCAHGNE OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON PRODUCTION, STORING, TRANSPORTING, AND PROCESSING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WHICH MAY HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO RAPIDLY INCREASE THEIR DOMESTIC FOOD SUPPLIES.

3. GOI OFFICIALS ARE PLANNING TO STRONGLY EMPHASIZE THREE POINTS
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FOR DISCUSSION AT THE WFC. THESE ARE:

A. DEVELOP A WORKABLE PLAN FOR ESTABLISHING WORLD FOOD RESERVES,

B. DEVELOP A MORE EUITABLE PROCEDURE FOR SHARING WORLD FOOD SURPLUSES AND

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C. DEVELOP A MORE EQUITABLE PROCEDURE FOR SHARING ESSENTIAL PRODUCTION INPUTS SUCH AS FERTILIZER. THEY POINT OUT THAT A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF PRODUCTION REQUISITES WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD OVERCOMING PRODUCTION DISPARITIES AND IN THE LONG RUN WOULD BE MUCH MORE ECONOMICAL FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAN TO IMPORT AGICULTURAL COMMODITIES.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FOOD ASSISTANCE, MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE02016
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740243/aaaabohj.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SWF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 7206
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE
TAGS: EAGR, IN, FAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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